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(iii) The main correspondence in the State is conducted in English and while that is so, appeals, etc., may continue to be presented in English."

Minimum wages of beedi workers.

* *Short Notice Question No.* 23.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I have given notice of a short notice question regarding the minimum wages of beedi workers and the Hon. Minister for Labour is prepared to answer it."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer it, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" May I read the question first and then answer."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Yes, he may do it."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question is—

' Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have called for a Conference of Beedi and Cigar Factory owners in the State and the representatives of the labour unions in those factories at Fort St. George on 16th August 1955 with a view to bring in legislation and to fix minimum wages for the industry; and

(*b*) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter? '

" The answer is—

' (*a*) Yes, Sir.

' (*b*) The views of the various interests were heard and they would be considered before taking a final decision in the matter.' "

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Questions are over."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTION *RE* ELECTION OF A NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I have received notice of a privilege motion from the hon. Member, Sri Narayana Kurup, regarding the election of a new Speaker. I want to take up this Motion at the next sitting of the House. If the hon. Members want some information in respect of it, I can ask the Hon. the Leader of the House to give it."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the point is this. Mr. Kurup has given notice of a privilege motion saying that a breach of the privilege of the House has occurred regarding the

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election of the Speaker and I do not know why he wants to raise it now. I am sure he is aware that this matter came up before the Business Advisory Committee and it was agreed by all including his leader that the election might be held during the September sitting of the House. It is particularly to oblige the Malabar Members in view of the Onam festival, that it has been postponed to September. Sir, apart from the question whether it comes under a privilege motion or not, I can assure hon. Members that the Government are as anxious as other hon. Members that the election should take place as early as possible and at the next sitting it will be held. But, I am sure that hon. Members will agree that in view of the efficient way in which the proceedings of this House are being conducted now, no harm is done by the postponement of the election." (Laughter.)

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" Sir, I am very sorry that my privilege motion has been construed as a reflection on the able way in which the Deputy Speaker has been discharging his duties. I must refute it. The Hon. Minister has asked me why I brought it now before the House. Sir, under Article 178 of the Constitution, whenever there is any vacancy in the post of the Speaker, the House is entitled to elect a new Speaker."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I have not given my consent to the motion. I wanted the Hon. Leader of the House to enlighten me upon it. I will take up the motion at the next meeting."

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" Sir, I should explain why I have given notice of this motion."

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" I have accepted the explanation that there is no insinuation in it." (Laughter.)

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" I brought it only on the last day of this sitting. Under the rules, we are given power to suggest a date to the Governor and hence I thought I could draw the attention of the Government to this fact. Sir, the Ministry has no function in the matter of election of the Speaker and if that is so, I do not know what function the Business Advisory Committee has got in respect of this matter. It is the right vested in the House but it has been rendered nugatory and we are unable to enforce it. It is only for that reason that I have given notice of this motion. And I once more add that it is no reflection on the excellent manner in which you have been functioning in this House."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" However, the House must have a Speaker according to the Constitution."